

FACT SHEET

Bioptic Telescope Lens

Purpose:

To explain the requirements to qualify for a Bioptic Learner's Permit/Bioptic Driver's License.

Bioptic Lens Requirements:

- Eligible applicants must be at least 16 years of age or older and have retained Bioptic Lens for at least three months.
- **Visual Acuity** - Must be less than 20/100 combined visual acuity but at least 20/200 visual acuity in the best corrected eye. Bioptic telescope correction is no greater than a 6X telescope and is firmly fixed in the glasses or attached permanently to the bridge of the frame.
- **Color Vision** - Must have color vision sufficient to respond correctly to the presence of, or changes in, traffic light color, pavement markings, road signs, turn indicators, brake lights, emergency flashers or the presence of other road users, including emergency vehicles.
- **Overall Vision** - Applicant is given a complete vision examination, including plotted visual fields showing 120 degrees bilaterally in the horizontal meridian, and meets the visual acuity requirements necessary for bioptic telescope driving.
- **Annual Requirements** – Once an individual obtains a Bioptic Driver's License, they must complete an annual eye exam by an optometrist or ophthalmologist and must maintain a clean driving record.

How to Obtain a Bioptic Permit

The applicant would need to complete the following to apply for a Bioptic Learner's Permit:

- **DL-102BD** - Bioptic Low Vision Examination Form documenting a complete vision examination, including plotted visual fields showing 120 degrees bilaterally in the horizontal meridian, meets the visual requirements necessary for bioptic telescope driving and proof of owning a bioptic telescope lens system for the last three months.
- **DL-70BD** – Front Seat Passenger-In-Car Form that has logged a minimum of 10 hours of front seat passenger-in-car training with a Low Vision Rehabilitation Specialist while wearing the bioptic telescope.
- Provide a Letter of Enrollment with a PennDOT approved Certified Driver Instructor (CDI) or Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist (CDRS) Low Vision Rehabilitation Specialist.

- **DL-180** Application for Non-Commercial Learner's Permit.
- Social Security Card.
- Birth Certificate with raised seal or a valid Passport.
- Two Proofs of Residency documents.
- Upon receiving an application from an eligible individual and approval from PennDOT's Medical Unit, a novice driver will be instructed to take PennDOT's Knowledge Test.
- The Knowledge Test can be waived for an Experienced Driver.
- When a novice driver passes the Knowledge Test, PennDOT will issue a bioptic telescope learner's permit, authorizing the permittee to drive only while wearing a bioptic telescopic lens and only during daylight hours, starting 30 minutes after sunrise until 30 minutes prior to sunset.

Driving while under Bioptic Learner's Permit:

The permittee will need to complete the following requirements while under the Bioptic Learner's Permit.

- Permittee will be required to wear the Bioptic Telescope Lens while driving.
- Permittee may only drive 30 minutes after sunrise through 30 minutes before sunset.
- Permittee must obtain a minimum of 20 hours of behind-the-wheel driver training using a Bioptic Telescope Lens with a PennDOT approved CDI/CDRS Low Vision Rehabilitation Specialist, which may be documented on the DL-71BD Log Form.
- Permittee must obtain a minimum of 45 hours of additional observed driving with a licensed driver who is at least 21 years of age. The 45 hours of driving must include 5 hours of adverse weather driving, to be documented on the DL-71BD Log Form.
- Following the combined 65 hours of driver training, the permittee must be reevaluated by a PennDOT approved CDI/CDRS Low Vision Rehabilitation Specialist and have DL-72BD Bioptic Driving Reassessment Form completed and submitted to PennDOT's Medical Unit if the permittee is deemed ready to take Driver's Skills Test by the Low Vision Rehabilitation Specialist.

A PennDOT approved CDI/CDRS Low Vision Rehabilitation Specialist may choose to waive the 45 additional hours of driving with a licensed driver for Experienced Drivers.

Driver's Skills Test Requirements:

The Bioptic Learner's Permit holder would need to submit the following form to PennDOT's Medical unit before scheduling their Driver's Skills Test.

- **DL-72BD** completed by a PennDOT approved CDI/CDRS Low Vision Rehabilitation Specialist, documenting the Learner's Permit Holders readiness to take the Driver's Skills Test.

After all forms are received the Learner's Permit Holder can schedule their Driver's Skills Test by contacting PennDOT at (717) 412-5300 or online at www.dmv.pa.gov.

Bioptic Telescope Lens Driver Restrictions:

Bioptic drivers are subject to the following minimum restrictions:

- The Individual's driving privilege is limited to roads other than freeways.
- The Individual's driving privilege is limited to passenger vehicles weighing no more than 10,000 pounds and excludes operation of a motorcycle.
- The Individual's driving privilege may be limited to driving within a limited radius of the Individuals residence.
- If the Individual has visual acuity of less than 20/50 vision using Bioptic Telescope Lenses while driving, the individual may drive in daylight hours only.
- If the Individual has visual acuity of 20/40 or better vision using Bioptic Telescope Lenses while driving, the Individual may apply for nighttime driving after one year provided:
 - The Individual has committed no violations and had no accidents reported during that year.
 - The Individual is reevaluated by a PennDOT approved CDI/CDRS Low Vision Rehabilitation Specialist and the CDI/CDRS Low Vision Rehabilitation Specialist recommends allowing nighttime driving.

Reasons Bioptic Telescope Lens Driving May Be Recalled:

- PennDOT determines that the Individual was involved in an at-fault accident.
- Individual is convicted of two moving violations within a one-year period.

For more information about the Bioptic Learner's Permit please contact the PennDOT Medical Unit via email at Medical@pa.gov or online at www.dmv.pa.gov.